

City Church Moves To New Role

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will offer weekly classes for children in grades 4 to 8.

Father Kreckel doesn't see the community ministry as any special province of inner city churches. The pressures of current social problems may be pushing the urban parishes into action more quickly, but "the approach is needed in suburbia just as much as here," he feels.

There's a small but encouraging trend at Immaculate Conception, too. About one new family a week is joining the parish, even though the family may live some distance away.

"These are people who sense that something new is going on here, and want to be part of it," Father Kreckel said.

The trend is still only a trickle, but already it has brought in 10 volunteers for the Ecumenical Church School and four for the proposed youth ministry.

So, while others have not even asked the question, "What is the Church's role in today's world?" they've had to ask it at Immaculate Conception and other inner city parishes.

They're taking the first steps now toward an answer.

—Father Robert Kanka



Comfortable Way to Learn

Ponce, Puerto Rico — (RNS) — An outdoor class in Spanish is enjoyed by a group of U.S. priests studying at the Larrain Inter-American Center of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce. About 190 American religious are studying at the center, and all participate in daily intensive Spanish language practice. The students are from left: Father Louis Bartrauf of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Thomas Thompson of New York, a seminarian; Father Kenneth Smith of Worcester, Mass.; Father William Lombardy and Father Larry Tracy, both of New York; and Brother Paul Duffy. With the religious are Senorita Nydia Gonzalez, supervisor of Spanish (standing); and Senorita Vilma Lidia Alvarado, instructor.

KC Highlights Faith Year Rites

Montreal, Que. — (RNS) — Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt called on the 1,200,000 members of the Knights of Columbus to head Pope Paul's 'Year of Faith' proclamation by sponsoring public "Masses at which there is a 'formal' testimony of our faith."

"It would be even more fitting," he told delegates at the Knights' 85th annual Supreme Council meeting here, "if such Masses could be made an ecumenical occasion whereby other Christians and other believers could join in our attestation of faith in a Divine Being and in our offer of public honor to Him."

The Year of Faith was proclaimed by the Pope last February to commemorate the 19th centennial of the martyrdom of St. Peter and Paul. At that time, the pontiff urged a revitalized profession of the Christian faith not only in the Catholic Church but in the whole world.

In keeping with the Pope's call, Mr. McDevitt also asked the knights to participate in "ecumenical dialogue carried on within the guidelines of the local bishop." He observed that a "carefully conducted dialogue with other Christians generally broadens knowledge of one's faith and that of one's neighbor and strengthens the Christian faith of both."

Another testimony of faith, he said, would be "joint social action programs with other religious and civic groups to improve the community if the cooperation is based on religious and moral principles."

He criticized "innovators who seem to let their theological fancies run wild and chafe under any restraint or guidance placed on them by the Divine deposit of faith guarded so zealously by the Church for almost 20 centuries."

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Abortion, Conference Topic

Washington, (NC) — The medical, ethical, social and legal questions surrounding abortion policies and practices will be explored by experts in the various fields affected at an international conference to be held here Sept. 6-8.

Plans for the conference, to be sponsored jointly by the Harvard Divinity School and the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, were outlined at a press conference by the planning committee.

POINTING TO the many questions raised for society by recent widespread moves to relax abortion laws and expressing hope that the conference will gather and make public findings of the different disciplines involved regarding the matter were:

Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, executive vice president of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, the Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Richardson, professor, Harvard Divinity School and conference chairman; Dr. Robert E. Cooke, pediatrician-in-chief, Johns Hopkins Hospital; and Dr. Andre Hellegers, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Georgetown University Medical School.

Mrs. Shriver told the conference that the question of abortion is related to mental retardation and child development with which the Kennedy Foundation has been involved for more than 20 years.

"We feel it is important," she said, "that all of the public knowledge now available from the fields of medicine, sociology, law and religion be brought to bear on this problem."

Noting that advances in the medical field have in some ways increased and in others decreased demands for abortion, she also pointed to the ethical dispute on the matter. "There are those," she said, "who would urge legal abortion for any fetus that has a probability of being defective. There are those who argue no one has the right to take the life of that baby in the womb of its mother, not even the mother herself."

Dr. Richardson told the press conference that widespread dis-

agreement on the ethics of the matter is understandable because of the "complexity of the issues at stake."

"However," he stressed, "the very same complexity also makes it intolerable that any party to the debate accuse his opponent of false motives or moral insensitivity. More especially, the attempt by some to exclude the churches from influencing public thought on this matter is to be lamented. A traditional function of religion in America has been, precisely, to advocate publicly certain kinds of moral behavior that may be unpopular in any given generation."

He said that one of the aims of the conference would be to "protect the right of all religious groups to a respectful hearing as part of the public discussion."

"Our purpose, therefore, is not simply to study the issues at stake in abortions, but also to establish, or restore, a community of conversation and mutual respect among all parties to the debate."

Dr. Cooke stressed the "need for appropriate representation of the point of view of the

child" in all discussions on the matter. The public, he said, must "consider the fetus as a future child with certain rights as a human being" in considering either "excessive application or prohibition of abortion as an answer to our population and social problems."

Dr. Hellegers noted the great need for more facts on the question of abortion such as a closer estimate of the number of illegal abortions performed in the United States; a clearer understanding as to how relaxation of abortion laws would affect this number; the social experience in countries where abortion is generally legal.

Pressed for personal opinions on the ethics of abortion, the panel participants, with the exception of Mrs. Shriver, tended to call the question unanswerable except in specific situations. They expressed hope that the conference could bring together enough expert opinion to make generalized application of certain principles possible.

Mrs. Shriver, although insisting that her opinion had nothing to do with the conference, stated, "Personally I am not for abortion."

Council Names Observers

Geneva — (RNS) — Five observer-consultants were named to represent the World Council of Churches at the Roman Catholic Third World Congress of the Lay Apostolate in Rome, October 11-18.

They were Dr. Klaus Von Bismarck, chairman of the WCC's Working Committee of the Department of the Laity and director of the West German Radio; Dr. Hans Rudi Weber, associate director of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland; and three staff members of the laity department.

These were Ralph Young, executive secretary; C. I. Iity, associate secretary; and Judge Annie Jiagge of Ghana, a member of the Working Committee.

Epoch-Making, Says Hindu of Encyclical

Bombay — (RNS) — Pope Paul's encyclical On the Development of Peoples was hailed as "one of the most historic and epoch-making documents the world has seen" by a Hindu speaker here.

Dr. P. B. Gajendragadkar, former Chief Justice of India and chancellor of Bombay University, spoke at a symposium on the encyclical organized by the Newman Association of India.

While several speakers at the interreligious symposium were Roman Catholics, including Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, others were Jewish, Hindu and Parsee.

Cardinal Gracias said that he was happy at the widespread and favorable response to the encyclical in India but he expressed regret at the present effort to expel missionaries "who had changed the face of the state" from Assam.

Dr. Gajendragadkar said that the encyclical "brings out in a bold and forceful manner one of the neglected aspects of re-

ligion — that religion should be dynamic, embracing the spiritual, moral and material progress of the community as a whole."

"It also defines clearly and precisely the world-wide problem of imbalances — the results of colonialism, unregulated capitalism, racism and narrow nationalism which, if not remedied, are likely to lead to violence and totalitarianism," he said.

He called on "all men of goodwill" to "respond to the clarion call given by the world's greatest moral leader and come together into an army dedicated to the realization of the ideal of complete humanism."

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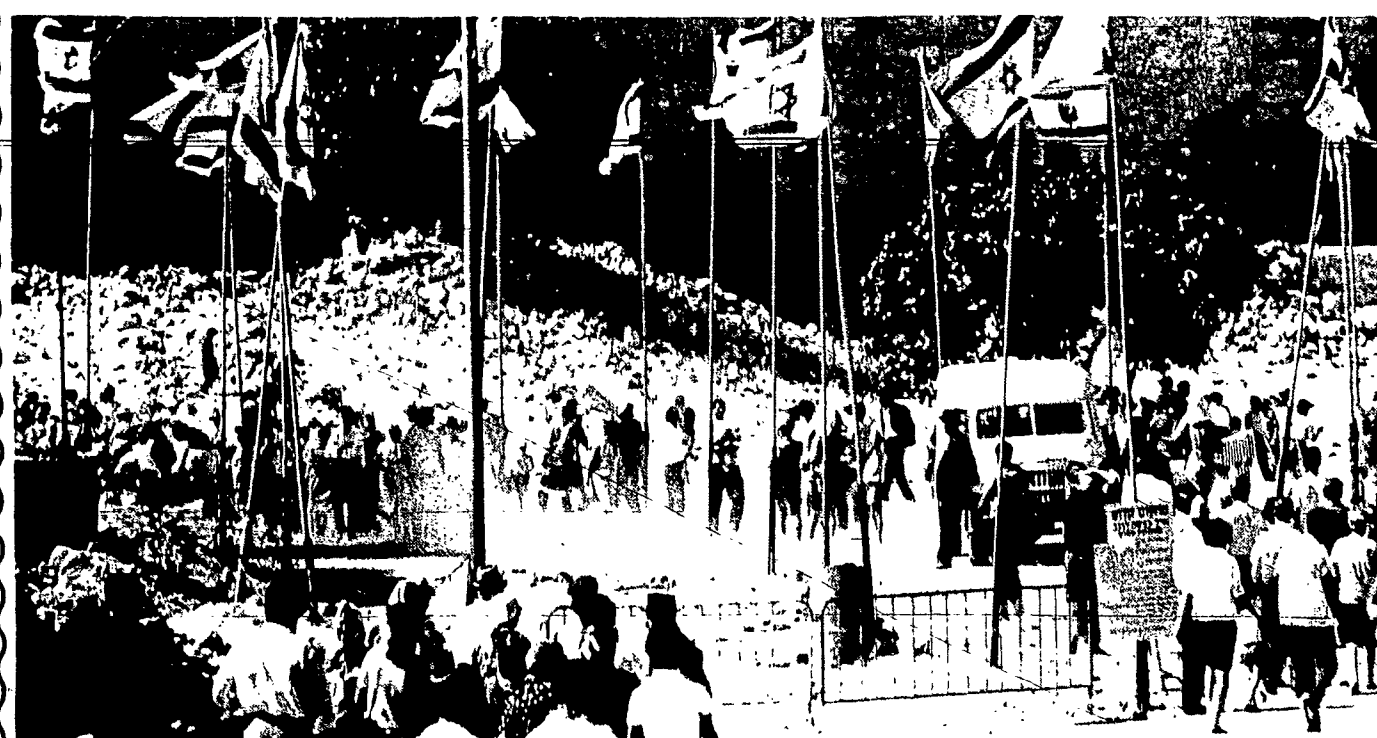
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A statement in cal is not theoretical man said. He add findings in a speec

The Vatican sq was most unlikely t important announce

Catholic U.S. War

Pittsburgh — (RNS) resolution backing conti of the Vietnam war u South Vietnamese get "f and security" was adof the Catholic Central U America and its affil National Catho W o Union, at their joint convention here.

Dealing with the "Ch War and Peace," the re declared: "We recognize sponsibility and support ument in prosecuting itary action in Vietna point where North Viet its Communist support respect the freedom an ty of the South Vie people."

(Several delegates, in attorney Joseph H. Ger tended from Rochester.)

The Central Union wa ed in 1885 to promote assistance and fellowsh German immigrants to / Its women's group was in 1906. The lay orga have since supplied

Michael Stu Requiem He

Funeral Mass for Mi Stuart was offered by Robert G. Kreckel in late Conception Church, July 21. Mr. Stuar Columbia Ave. died 1967.

He was a member of Name Society of Im Conception Church; the club of Eastman Ko and Genesee Valley I was a veteran of World